Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NDJAME 02251 291832Z

43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 IO-14 /160 W
---------- 119595
R 291230Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7308
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGUI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2251

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CD
SUBJ: TOMBALBAYE STATES POLICY ON MISSIONARIES

REF: NDJAMENA 2236 AND NDJAMENA 2221

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE REPORTED REFTEL 2236 I BROACHED QUESTION OF MISSIONARY EXPULSIONS WITH REMARK THAT THESE INCIDENTS CONSTITUTED ONLY RIPPLE IN OTHERWISE TRANQUIL US-CHADIAN RELATIONSHIP IN RECENT YEARS. I TOLD PRESIDENT I WANTED TO MAKE US POSITION CLEAR TO HIM PERSONALLY OVER AND ABOVE MY ORAL AND WRITTEN DEMARCHES ON SUBJECT TO FOREIGN MINISTER. I EXPLAINED THAT I FELT SOMEWHAT HURT AND EMBARRASSED NOT TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO GOC CONFIDENCE BY BEING GIVEN AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR HOUR NOTICE OF EXPULSIONS SO THAT I COULD FULFILL MY OBLIGATION TO LOOK AFTER INTERESTS OF US CITIZENS IN DISTRESS. PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS VERY APOLOGETIC BECAUSE OF FAILURE OF HIS STAFF TO SEND ME NOTICE IN ADVANCE CONTAINING CHARGES HE HIMSELF HAD DICTATED "THREE OR FOUR DAYS" BEFORE FIRST EXPULSIONS. HE SAID HE WAS CHAGRINED TO FIND LATER THAT I HAD NOT RECEIVED NOTE ON SUBJECT. MATERIAL HE HAD PREPARED WAS, HOWEVER, INCLUDED IN FONOFF REPLY TO EMBASSY'S NOTE (BEING TRANSMITTED IN TRANSLATION BY AIRGRAM).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NDJAME 02251 291832Z

2. PRESIDENT SAID HE WANTED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT "WE HAVE NOT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

EXPELLED AMERICANS" WE HAVE EXPELLED PEOPLE WHO HAVE STUBBORNLY FOR MANY YEARS OPPOSED EVERYTHING IMPORTANT TO US AS CHADIANS." BAPTIST MID-MISSION WAS FIRST FOREIGN MISSION TO BE ESTABLISHED IN SOUTH OF CHAD, FIFTY YEARS AGO. "THESE WERE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD US BEST; IN END THEY HAVE SHOWN THEY UNDERSTOOD US LEAST," HE SAID. HE REALIZED MANY OF PROBLEMS NOW ENCOUNTERED WERE FRUITION OF ATTITUDES INCULCATED IN COLONIAL PERIOD AND ADOPTED TO CONFORM TO COLONIAL POLICIES, BUT AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE THEY HAD EVERY CHANCE TO CHANGE THESE ATTITUDES. THEY EXCOMMUNICATED MANY CHADIANS WHO SUPPORTED HIM DURING EARLY DAYS OF PRE-INDEPENDENCE POLITICAL STRUGGLES ON GROUNDS RDA AND (LATER PPT) WERE "COMMUNIST-INSPIRED." HE SINGLED OUT MISS METZLER AS BAPTIST MISSIONARY TEACHER WHO WON HEARTS OF SARA PEOPLE BUT WHO WAS FORCED TO LEAVE BY OTHER BAPTISTS WHO DISAGREED WITH ACCOMMODATIONS SHE MADE TO SARA CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS. MOST BAPTISTS REMAINED NARROW AND CLOSED TO PEOPLE AND FORCES MOVING AROUND THEM; THEY WERE OUTSIDE MAIN STREAM OF CHADIAN LIFE. CATECHISTS WERE SENT TO CAR FOR TRAINING IN SANGO LANGUAGE SINCE EVEN NEW TESTAMENT WAS NOT AVAILABLE IN SARA UNTIL TEN YEARS AGO.

3. I MENTIONED THEN THAT I HAD HAD TALK DECEMBER 20 WITH DOCTOR SEYMOUR FROM KOUMRA WHO HAD EXPRESSED OPINION OF SOME BAPTISTS EXPELLED HAD TAKEN NEEDLESSLY SEVERELINE AGAINST SARA INITIATION CEREMONY (YONDOH) NOT REQUIRED BY CHURCH DOCTRINE (MEMCON EN ROUTE). PRESIDENT EXCLAIMED, "DOCTOR SEYMOUR: WE CONSIDER HIM A CHADIAN, A BROTHER." HE INQUIRED ABOUT SEYMOUR AND INDICATED PLEASURE WHEN I TOLD HIM SEYMOUR CONTINUING MEDICAL WORK AT KOUMRA ASSISTED BY WIFE AND FOUR REMAINING AMERICAN NURSES. I ADDED I HAD LEARNED FROM REV SANDERS AT DOBA DURING VISIT THERE LAST WEEK THAT PENTECOSTALS WILL SHOW NO OPPOSITION TO YONDOH AND ASKED WHETHER CATHOLIC POSITION HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY FROM HIS VIEWPOINT. CATHOLICS HAD TAKEN RIGHT POSITION, HE REPLIED, AS HAD OTHER CHRISTIAN SECTS. "THEY UNDERSTAND YONDOH IS NOT A RELIGION; THEY UNDER-STAND YONDOH IS NOT ANTI-CHRISTIAN," PRESIDENT SAID. CHAD WOULD CONTINUE WELCOME ALL MISSIONARIES WHO COME HERE AND SHOW RESPECT TO CHADIAN INSTITUTIONS AND TRADITIONS. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY, PRESIDENT STATED, TO AMERICANS AND CANADIANS.
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4. I THANKED PRESIDENT FOR HIS FRANKNESS IN EXPLAINING HIS POLICIES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE WOULD TALK WITH ME WHEN MISSIONARIES OR ANY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE CAUSING HIM PROBLEMS. I SAID I WOULD ALWAYS DO MY BEST TO HELP REMOVE ANY SOURCE OF FRICTION IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE PRESIDENT'S STRAIGHT-FORWARD EXPOSITION

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OF HIS (CHAD'S) MISSIONARY POLICY I CAN NOT ADMIT TO CERTAINTY
THAT WE ARE YET OUT OF WOODS ON THIS SUBJECT. I HOPE, AS I URGED
UPON DOCTOR SEYMOUR, THAT INSTANCES OF CONFRONTATION CAN BE
AVOIDED TO PERMIT KOUMRA HOSPITAL TO CONTINUE ITS IMPORTANT
WORK FROM WHICH LARGE PART OF SARA COUNTRY BENEFITS. I
INTENTIONALLY QUOTED DOCTOR SEYMOUR TO BUILD UP HIS ALREADY HIGH
STOCK WITH PRESIDENT AND TO GAIN TIME UNTIL EXPECTED VISIT BY
MID-MISSION GENERAL SEC DOCTOR BUCK NEXT MONTH. THERE IS, I
BELIEVE, AN OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY THAT, WITH NEW PERSONNEL AND NEW
IMAGE, BAPTISTS COULD STILL PICK UP PIECES IN DUE COURSE.
UNRESOLVED STILL IS CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PRESIDENT'S ACCOUNT OF
HIS INTENT TO GIVE US ADVANCE NOTICE OF EXPULSIONS AND PREVIOUSLY
REPORTED STATEMENT OF SENIOR SECURITY OFFICIAL THAT PRESIDENT
HAD SPECIFICALLY FORBIDDEN POLICE TO LET MISSIONARIES CONTACT
EMBASSY. I PREFER TO TAKE PRESIDENT AT HIS WORD FOR PRESENT.

6. FINALLY, I WISH TO CAUTION DEPT OFFS WHO ARE IN CONTACT WITH
MID-MISSION CLEVELAND HEADQUARTERS TO OMIT MENTION OF DOCTOR
SEYMOUR'S CRITICISM IN PERSONAL TALK WITH ME REGARDING HARD-
LINE ATTITUDES OF SOME CONFRERES. I WILL PURSUE THIS ASPECT WHEN
BUCK VISITS N'DJAMENA.
MULCAHY

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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